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WRT 105 – Writing Analytically Ch. 5 summary

Chapter 5 of “Linking evidence and claims: 10 on 1 versus 1 on 10” starts off by saying that evidence is used to test, refine and develop ideas instead of simply merely prove ideas correct. In the chapter, a claim is defined as “an assertion that you make about your evidence” (137). The word proof has two meaning: (1) evidence sufficient to establish a thing as true or believable and (2) the act of testing for truth or believability (138). Evidence, according to the article, can never speak for itself. If evidence is presented alone, it is basically given as a truth, and is assumed that it does not need proving. The discussion of unsubstantiated claims is also a major point in the article. These claims occur when a writer “concentrates only on conclusions, omitting the evidence that led to them” (193). The article also states that unsubstantiated claims can take away the opportunity for details. Some steps to take listed under the “How to Make Details Speak” section are to “say explicitly what you take the details to mean, state exactly how the evidence supports your claims and consider how the evidence qualifies your claims.” The structure of a well-developed thesis is then discussed. “Evidence has a second function beyond corroborating claims: to test and develop and evolve the thesis, making the thesis account more accurately for the evidence. Towards the middle of the article, the process called 10 on 1 is explained. It deals with the way qualifying arguments with evidence are used to compose a paper. The general rule, according to the article is “ It is better to make ten observations or points about a single representative or example than to make the same basic point about ten related issues or examples” (page 149).